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ACTIVITIES OF TECHNICAL SCIENCES SECTION,
ALL-UNION SOCIETY FOR DISSEMINATION
OF POLITICAL AND SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE

Members of the Technical Sciences Section of the All-Union Society for Dissemination of Political and Scientific Knowledge (chairman of section, Academician Ye. A. Chudakov) gave a number of interesting lectures during the past year. A few of the many topics discussed were: development of automobile construction in the USSR (Academician Ye. A. Chudakov); electrification of railroad transport (Academician V. N. Obratzov); radar and its uses (Professor I. S. Dzhitig); Soviet priority in the most important discoveries and inventions (Professor A. A. Zvorykin).

The purpose of the section is to disseminate technical information. It has 205 members, some of whom are prominent representatives of the scientific and technical intelligentsia in Moscow. Eleven technical subsections have been organized (machine construction, power, transportation, etc.) in order to enlist all members in the active work of the society.

It became apparent at the general meeting of the section on June 30 that many of the members did not fulfill the pledge to transmit information to the masses, which they made on joining the society. For example, in the first half year, only five of the 75 members of the subsection on machine construction gave lectures. The resolutions passed by the meeting with regard to practically all subsection reports were identical, i.e., that note be taken of the insufficient number of lectures and that a larger number should be planned for the future.

Each society member is pledged to give at least two free lectures per year. On its part, the society organization is obligated to supply proper publicity, premises, and so on. But these provisions have not always been executed. Consequently, some interesting lectures have had small audiences.

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A number of lectures are supposed to be given in commercial enterprises and institutions. For this purpose, the Technical Sciences Section proposed that the Committee for the Organization of Lectures in Moscow should arrange 39 lectures for the first 6 months, but only four were organized. No proper auditoriums could be found for 35 lectures.

The meeting resolves to broaden the subject matter of the lectures, to link up their content more closely with practical socialist construction, and to increase immediately the number of lectures in commercial enterprises.

The section is carrying on a membership drive to bring in new scientific and technical workers in the capital, a considerable number of whom have not yet joined the society.

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